THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The lifts/elevators maintained by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), have been functioning properly, except for occasional minor malfunctioning which is rectified immediately. There have been no cases of fatal accidents due to malfunctioning of lifts installed in hospitals under the charge of the CPWD.

The Central Government has been informed that by and large the lifts in the buildings of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) are working satisfactorily and there has been no fatal accident in hospital or in any other municipal building under its jurisdiction.

The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reported that no increased incidence of malfunctioning of lifts/elevators in public buildings, involving fatal accidents, has been observed.

(b) The CPWD has stated that in one case of January, 2003, a technician of the manufacturing firm concerned was trapped while working on the lift in the Minto Road Hostel. There was no passenger in the lift. It was a human error by a co-technician of the said firm.

No accident in the NDMC hospitals, namely, Charak, Palika Hospital, Moti Bagh and Palika Maternity Hospital, Lodhi Colony occurred in the last two years due to malfunctioning of the elevators.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has stated that no study has been carried out to find the causes as no fatal accident has taken place in its public buildings during the last two years.

(c) The CPWD, NDMC and Govt. of NCT of Delhi have stated that appropriate measures are taken to keep the lifts in good condition and to ensure that the lift do not get stuck during normal functioning. Repairs and maintenance of lifts are got done through the lifts-manufacturers/ specialized firms, as per the relevant safety standards.

Water scarcity in Karnataka

862. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore and other cities in Karnataka

are facing severe water scarcity due to prevailing drought situation in the State;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to provide required water for the people in the cities of the State;

(c) whether any Central assistance has been provided in that direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has informed that urban areas of Karnataka are facing scarcity of drinking water due to prevailing drought situation. Karnataka Water Supply and Drainage Board has informed that they have undertaken works such as extension of pipelines, repairs to hand pumps, power pumps, deepening of existing borewells, supply of water through tanks and drilling of new borewells to overcome the scarcity of drinking water in the urban areas of the State. An expenditure of Rs. 9.04 crores has been incurred by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board in this regard.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture, dealing with coordination of management of drought in the country have released the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 61.66 crores and Rs. 207.65 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for 2002-03 to the Government of Karnataka.

Change in use of shops

863. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have decided a new policy for allowing change of use of shops from 'Restricted' to 'General';

(b) if so, whether this policy would apply to even those cases which were pending on the date of new policy and in which demand letters as per old policy had been issued;